GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1797
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2007
BIS GUIDELINES REGARDING FOOD PRODUCTS
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards has issued any guidelines with regard to quality of food products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the guidelines are being strictly followed in the market; and

(d) if not, the number of cases of violation of the said guidelines reported alongwith the persons prosecuted therefor during the last two years, State-wise and year-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN)

(a) & (b): BIS has formulated 587 standards for various food products out of which 11 standards have been brought under mandatory certification by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare under Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act keeping in view the health and safety of common consumers. The remaining standards are voluntary in nature.

(c) : The manufacturer has to take licence from BIS for the standards on food items which have been made mandatory by Ministry of Health. In such cases if the manufacturer does not obtain licence, Ministry of Health takes action against them under PFA Act. In case of voluntary food items, the manufacturer may or may not obtain licence under the relevant Indian standard.

(d) : In case of mandatory food items, if the manufacturer does not obtain BIS licence, the action is taken by the Regulatory Body i.e. Ministry of Health under the PFA Act.